

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 02172 160548Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 NRC-07 PA-02
PRS-01 /124 W

-----160553Z 058204 /14

R 160532Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5492

UNCLAS TOKYO 2172

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, JA

SUBJECT: FOREIGN OFFICE DENIES NEWS STORY CLAIM THAT USG HAD
ACCEPTED JAPANESE POSITION ON NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING

1. AM 2/15 EDITION OF SANKEI SHIMBUNGAVE HEADLINE ATTENTION TO
STORY IT CLAIMED ORIGINATED FROM FOREIGN OFFICE. ARTICLE STATED
THAT PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT JAMES SCHLESINGER HAD TOLD DEPUTY
FOREIGN MINISTER YOSHINO DURING LATTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON
THAT USG HAD "NO OBJECTION TO JAPAN'S REPROCESSING OF NUCLEAR
FUEL".

2. APPARENTLY REPORTERS FROM OTHER PAPERS WHO ATTENDED YOSHINO
PRESS BRIEFING DID NOT HEAR HIM MAKE ANY SUCH STATEMENT AND THEY
PRESSED FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR CLARIFICATION. WHEN EMBASSY
ASKED INFORMALLY ABOUT VALIDITY OF STORY, MOFA STATED THAT
ARTICLE WAS UNFOUNDED AND THAT OFFICIAL, CATEGORICAL DENIAL
OF ITS AUTHENTICITY WAS BEING ISSUED TO PRESS. MOFA IS OBVIOUSLY
EMBARRASSED BY OVEREAGER PRESS EFFORTS, PRINTED JUST A FEW
DAYS BEFORE INOUE MISSION LEAVES FOR WASHINGTON BRIEF USG
ON JAPANESE NUCLEAR ENERGY VIEWS. MOFA OFFICIAL STATED THAT
HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT DAMAGE THAT WOULD BE DONE BY ARTICLE
TO INOUE MISSION AND TO GOJ NUCLEAR RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND OTHER
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COUNTRIES.

3. USIS CONTACT IN JAPANESE NEWS MEDIA HAS SPECULATED THAT SOME
CASUAL PHRASE PASSED DURING SCHLESIGNER/YOSHINO MEETING HAD BEEN
TWISTED INTO NEWS STORY BY ENTERPRISING PRESS OFFICER IN MOFA.
HE ALSO SAID THAT STORY COULD HAVE BEEN TRIAL BALLOON BY MOFA
TO TEST USG THINKING. EMBASSY DISCOUNTS LATTER POSSIBILITY, SINCE

(A) TOKYO AND A JAPANESE NEWSPAPER WOULD NOT BE OPTIMUM VENUE
AND HEDIUM FOR TEST AND (B) EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG PROMPT, AND
FORMAL DENIAL OF AUTHENTICITY OF STORY BY MOFA AOULD NOT SUPPORT
SUCH A THESIS.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR FUELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO02172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770054-0895
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770234/aaaabedm.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3302807
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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